

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1        1.    A method for creating a privacy policy,  
2    comprising:  
3            creating a policy group;  
4            moving a data element to the policy group; and  
5            generating a privacy policy based on the policy  
6    group.

1        2.    The method of claim 1, wherein the data element  
2    is a predefined data element.

1        3.    The method of claim 1, wherein the data element  
2    comprises at least one sub-element.

1        4.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2            updating a policy-wide property; and  
3            generating the privacy policy based on the  
4    policy-wide property.

1        5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating a human-  
3    readable version of the policy.

1        6.    The method of claim 5, wherein the human-  
2    readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext  
3    markup language version of the policy.

1        7.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating an  
3    extensible markup language version of the policy.

1        8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating a  
3    compact policy.

1        9.    The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy comprises generating a policy  
3    statement corresponding to the policy group.

1        10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the step of  
2    generating a privacy policy further comprises generating  
3    a table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in  
4    the table of policy elements corresponds to the policy  
5    statement.

1        11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2               identifying an error in the privacy policy; and  
3               generating an error statement describing the  
4    error.

1        12.   An apparatus for creating a privacy policy,  
2    comprising:  
3               creation means for creating a policy group;  
4               movement means for moving a data element to the  
5    policy group; and  
6               generation means for generating a privacy  
7    policy based on the policy group.

8        13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data  
9    element is a predefined data element.

1        14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the data  
2    element comprises at least one sub-element.

1           15. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
2               means for updating a policy-wide property; and  
3               means for generating the privacy policy based  
4 on the policy-wide property.

1           16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a human-  
3 readable version of the policy.

1           17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the human-  
2 readable version of the policy comprises a hypertext  
3 markup language version of the policy.

1           18. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating an  
3 extensible markup language version of the policy.

1           19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a compact  
3 policy.

1           20. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the  
2 generation means comprises means for generating a policy  
3 statement corresponding to the policy group.

1           21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the  
2 generation means further comprises means for generating a  
3 table of policy elements, wherein a policy element in the  
4 table of policy elements corresponds to the policy  
5 statement.

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1        22. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
2                means for identifying an error in the privacy  
3 policy; and  
4                means for generating an error statement  
5 describing the error.

1        23. An interface for creating a privacy policy,  
2 comprising:  
3                a first portion for displaying predefined data  
4 elements;  
5                a second portion for displaying groups of data  
6 elements, wherein a group of data elements shares at  
7 least one common property; and  
8                a third portion for displaying a privacy policy  
9 generated from the groups of data elements.

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1        24. A computer program product, in a computer  
2 readable medium, for creating a privacy policy,  
3 comprising:  
4                instructions for creating a policy group;  
5                instructions for moving a data element to the  
6 policy group; and  
7                instructions for generating a privacy policy  
8 based on the policy group.